

The Brooklyn Paper

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Japanese designer Hiroyuki Ogura traveled from Osaka to Dumbo to show off his unique handmade skateboards.

Japan ♥ Bklyn

Japanese designers in local show

By Matthew Perlman
The Brooklyn Paper

Forget turning Japanese, the Japanese are turning Brooklyn. Bklyn Designs, a design convention that happened last weekend in Dumbo, usually limits its roster to borough designers, but this year it featured a

group of Japanese thing-makers inspired by our borough—even if they are a bit fuzzy on the details. “Nowadays in Japan, Brooklyn is like a brand,” said Shigekazu Yasuta, a designer and professor of design from Osaka. “They love the lifestyle. See **JAPAN** on page 11

SAVE THE WEDDINGS!

After Dumbo venue’s abrupt closure, a helping hand to couples

By Matthew Perlman
The Brooklyn Paper

The surprise closing of Rebar, a bar, restaurant, and event space on Front Street in Dumbo, has sparked former employees, scorned customers, and neighboring venues to band together to help save the dozens of weddings booked at the defunct party palace for the next two years. Rebar employees came in to work last Friday expecting a normal day, but found a note on the door saying the joint was shuttered. A two line e-mail from Jason Stevens, Rebar’s owner, accompanied the note, but the message did not provide any further information about what is happening or why, nor did it make any mention of reimbursing the couples who have booked the space for weddings through 2016. Borough businesses rallied to aid the spurned couples. At One Knickerbocker, a bar and restaurant in Williamsburg, one staffer recalled booking



Vicki Friedrich and Egon Smullyan’s February, 2015 wedding plans went haywire when Rebar shuttered without warning.

his own wedding not too long ago and said he shudders to think about how the stranded couples must be feeling. “I remember going through all the different hassles and experiences of planning a wedding,” said co-owner Jesse Levitt. “I feel really terrible for these people.” Levitt said his restaurant can host a party of 125 in a pinch, and most of the events it has booked right now are for the end of the summer and later. He is hoping to help fill some of the immediate void left behind by Rebar’s closing by offering a 25-percent discount for anyone trying to re-book their nuptials in a hurry. “We happen to be in a position where we can help a little,” he said. Supporters also started an online fund-raiser that hopes to raise \$5,000 for each of the 18 couples with weddings booked over the next couple of months. They had raised \$1,600 by See **REBAR** on page 6



A Park Slope cycling activist snapped this shot of a Whole Foods Market forklift taking up the whole bike lane and sidewalk with its work on April 28.

Whole road hog

Neighbors: Mega-grocer is blocking bike and pedestrian traffic on Third Avenue

By Megan Riesz
The Brooklyn Paper

The Whole Foods Market in Gowanus is using the bike lane and sidewalk that run along its side as a loading dock, blocking the path with forklifts, trucks, and pallets, say irked neighbors and cyclists. A musician who lives around the corner from the high-end grocer claims the store’s unloading obstructs the Third

Avenue paths nearly every day and sometimes into the evening. The congestion shows a gaping hole in the store’s planning and proves why the city should have never let Big Kale get the zoning variance to build such a huge facility, the longtime resident contended, saying it has ruined that side of the street for him.



MEAN Streets The battle for Brooklyn’s byways

“It’s pretty chaotic over there, with trucks unloading and not taking care where they do it—and sometimes multiple See **WHOLE** on page 5

Missing man found dead in harbor

By Danielle Furfaro
The Brooklyn Paper

Police pulled the swollen body of missing fashion designer James “Jay” Ott out of the New York Harbor last Thursday morning, ending a nearly two month search

for the man friends described as depressed. Boat-equipped cops retrieved the body from the harbor at Pier 4 off of Second Avenue and 58th Street in Sunset Park at 11:12 am on Thursday. It took more than

24 hours to identify it. Friends last saw Ott on the evening of March 22, and he was captured on a surveillance video entering his home in Williamsburg’s McKibbin Lofts at about 10 pm. His friends later found

footage of him walking on the Williamsburg Bridge. At the time, his friends and family put out notices and fliers across the city in search of him, and warned that he suffered from depression and anxiety.

Ott worked for the Los Angeles-based fashion investment firm Dock Group and has also worked as a designer for J. Mendel and the Row. He was profiled by the website Stylelikeu in 2009.



Police recovered the badly decomposed body of James Ott floating just off Pier 4 at 58th Street in Sunset Park.



More than 200 dancers showed up for Morning Glory’s first early-morning dance party.

Get up — and dance

Sober, pre-work raves arrive in Williamsburg

By Danielle Furfaro
The Brooklyn Paper

Going to the gym before work is so passé. A party company is now offering a new kind of morning workout regiment — early morning, sober raves. The eye-opening format is the perfect way to start a weekday, a participant said. “We do not have to relegate dancing to super-late at night and while under the influence of drugs,” said Tasha Blank, one of the disc jockeys who spun at the first Morning Glory rave, which was held at the Kinfolk 94 gal-



Johnny Quinn Alston and Nessoono Norich danced the morning away.

lery space in Williamsburg early last Wednesday morning. The raves are modeled after well-lit morning bashes that debuted in London last year. Annie Fabricant, the co-founder of the New York branch of Morning Glory, discovered the events when she went home for the holidays and she decided to replicate them here. The difference between them and the dance parties she had been to was like night and day, she said. “It was a wave of really positive energy. Everyone was really See **RAVES** on page 6

Still sleepless beside bridge

Residents say noisy construction work has gone on too long

By Matthew Perlman
The Brooklyn Paper

It is a bridge below troubled nights’ sleep. That is the complaint of residents living beside the Brooklyn Bridge on Cadman Plaza and in Concord Village, who say the city is taking way too long to get the job done, and killing them in the process. “Noise is not something to sneeze at,” said Roberto Gautier, who lives on the 23rd floor of a Cadman Plaza West building that overlooks the bridge’s entrance. “It affects your health when you’re submitted to sleep deprivation.” The Department of Transportation filed an extension for the project—which is repairing worn



Roberto Gautier looks down on the entrance ramp to the Brooklyn Bridge, where he says construction is keeping him awake at night.

entrance and exit ramps, repaving the bridge, and painting of the entire 131-year-old span—that has taken four years so far and was originally scheduled to finish last month. The extension gives the agency until April 2015 to complete the work, but honchos at the road-making body say it will try to have most of it done by the end of this year. The city blames poor weather—especially this past winter—for the delays to the work that runs overnight or on the weekend to minimize traffic disruption, but neighbors the city has had plenty of time to finish the job. Gautier claimed he has had his sleep disrupted for four years now See **BRIDGE** on page 11



A Department of Education worker posted this no-smoking sign outside 65 Court St., which goes against the agency’s own policy.

BUTTING IN

A rogue Court Street worker posts own smoking ban signs

By Megan Riesz
The Brooklyn Paper

Court Street is now a no-smoking zone! Someone working in the Department of Education building on the downtown street declared a smoking ban within 50 feet of

the entrance by posting a homemade sign “no smoking” signs near the front door. The signs warn tobacco tokers not to indulge unless they head down nearby Joralemon and Livingston streets, since even going See **SMOKING** on page 12



Fran Donofrio last year.

Pre-K cash gives W’burg communiy hub hope

By Danielle Furfaro
The Brooklyn Paper

An embattled center for seniors and kids in Williamsburg is getting a shot in the arm from Mayor DeBlasio’s universal prekindergarten program. The Swinging Sixties Center, which had been given till Jan. 31 to vacate its Ainslie Street home of 40 years, has got-

ten a fighting chance in a housing court battle thanks to a cash infusion from the Brooklynite in chief’s trademark school program. A longtime leader of the community hub said that it is going to survive whether its landlords want it to stay or not. “We are moving ahead here no matter what the landlord is doing,” said

Community Board 1 member Jan Peterson, who helped to open the place in the 1970s. In November, Victor Einhorn purchased the building for \$4.5 million. In the weeks after, he jacked up the rent and served the center with an eviction notice on Christmas Eve, according to center supporters.

Now advocates say the mayoral money, as well as the other public funds the outfit gets for its daycare program, will convince a judge that Einhorn has no standing to give it the boot. Dire winter warnings about its imminent closure aside, the center seems to be in decent financial shape as this week it revealed a newly renovated base-

ment, which contains a bocce court, a pool table, and a ceramics studio. “There were bugs and mold down here. It was unusable for more than five years,” said Peterson. “Now it’s all fixed up, and that is a big victory.” Most of the renovations were paid for by the housing advocacy group Saint Nick’s Alliance.

Once upon a time, there was an empty table in a fabulous, trendy restaurant.



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Conehead!

Art in motion on Jay Street

By Nathan Tempey
The Brooklyn Paper

Unicorns are real and we have the proof, maybe. Our ace photographer spotted what might have been one of the creatures, which till now have been thought to reside only in fairy-tale books, riding a customized Raleigh road bike down Jay Street in Downtown last week.

Then again, there is an equally strong chance that what our shutterbug saw was actually Kalan Sherrard, a performance artist who thrills and chills straphangers in the Bedford Avenue L station with bone marionettes, harmonicas, and dirty doll parts. Or, in the artist's words, "a nihilist, anarchist puppet show about literary theory," as he explained to a videographer for the news website Gothamist.

"I like to collect things that seem to weigh a lot, semioti-

cally, and collage with them," Sherrard told the site. "Sort of to suggest that it's very meaningful, but also to say that nothing is meaningful at all."

Strengthening our suspicion that the cyclist was the performer, there is video of Sherrard being arrested for acting strangely in a Manhattan subway station, which, it should be pointed out, is not a crime. He was wearing a helmet similar to the pictured, pronged one at the time of his apparently baseless incarceration.

The horn is made out of spray foam, he told Gothamist, which seems to be in the process of positioning itself as a clearinghouse for Sherrard-related news and rumors.

"Metaphorically, it's the wetness, that tellurian wetness," he said about his headgear, after his arrest. "It's the violence in euphoria."



Community Newspaper Group / Matthew Perlman



The road rejiggering offers a new car entrance at Lincoln Road, bottom right, which connects to a new parking area, top center.

Parking it

New lot for Prospect Park

By Megan Riesz
The Brooklyn Paper

They put another parking lot in paradise. Prospect Park is getting a new parking lot as part of the final phase of the \$74-million Lakeside project. The 120 new spaces will replace an older parking lot that was much larger, and won't take up any green space, according to the group that oversees the greensward.

"It was, historically, a parking lot," Prospect Park Alliance spokesman Eric Landau said. "What's currently grass will remain grass."

The lot, which is being built on Breeze Hill, will only be open during the ice-skating season — from mid-October to March — whereas the previous 250-space lot was open year-round, according to Lan-

dau. Drivers will be able to cruise in and out of the lot using another new road stemming from the Lincoln Road entrance on Ocean Avenue.

Construction on the lot also includes water basins that will improve drainage, Landau said.

Next to the LeFrak Center, an ice-skating rink that opened in December and was transformed last month into a two-rink roller-skating complex, workers are landscaping an area that used to be an entryway to the old parking lot. And finally, a new pedestrian path is being installed that will run parallel to Park Drive from the parking lot to the facility and the 3.5-mile bridle path for horseback riding, which begins at the Park Circle entrance, is being renovated. The Alliance expects work to wrap in June.



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Crook reaches under toilet stall to steal a wallet

84TH PRECINCT
Brooklyn Heights–DUMBO–Boerum Hill–Downtown

A foul fiend snaked his hand under a toilet stall to steal a woman’s wallet from her bag as the lady sat petrified on the porcelain throne in a Livingston Street office building’s bathroom on April 29, cops said.

The victim stated she was using the restroom in the building between Smith Street and Boerum Place at 10:30 am and took her purse into the stall with her, placing it on the floor.

She was doing her business when the creep stuck his hand in and plucked her billfold, which contained \$30 in cash along with debit and credit cards, cops said. The woman told authorities she never saw the sneak-thief’s face.

MetroCard heist

More than 400 MetroCards worth \$24,680 vanished from a university’s academic affairs office on Court Street sometime between Dec. 13 and April 28, officers reported.

The worker said she locked up the transit passes in a cabinet at the office building between Livingston and Schermerhorn streets on Dec. 13 at 10 am and discovered them missing at 10 am on April 28, according to a police report.

All told the nabbed passes totalled 300 weekly cards, which cost \$30 apiece, and

140 monthly cards, which cost \$112 each, the report says.

Subway snatch

Someone snagged a 52-year-old’s wallet aboard a Brooklyn-bound 4 train on April 28, police stated.

The victim told cops he boarded a crowded train at Grand Central Station at 9:30 am and exited at Borough Hall. When he got to his office on Gold Street between Myrtle Avenue and Wiltoughby Street, he noticed his wallet was gone, according to a police report.

The wallet contained \$300 in cash plus debit and credit cards, the reports says.

Bold bandit

A crass crook accosted a woman in the Borough Hall subway station on April 29, stealing her cash and prepaid credit cards from her jacket, according to the authorities.

The victim reported that she was climbing the stairs from the platform near the exit on Joralemon and Court streets when the villain grabbed her from behind.

“Give me your s---,” the scoundrel supposedly hissed.

The punk then reached into her jacket pockets and removed \$60 in cash along with the cards, police said.

Bathroom bully

Cops arrested a 17-year-old on April 28 who they say threatened to beat up a fellow student when he refused to join his gang at a Johnson

Street school.

The 15-year-old victim told police he was washing his hands in the bathroom at the school between Bridge and Jay streets when the older boy first approached him on April 10 at 10:30 am.

“Be in my gang or pay me \$200 or I will f--- you up,” the bully demanded, according to a police report.

The victim gave the suspect \$70 the next time he saw him, and promised to give him more, the report states.

Cops arrested the alleged extortionist at 10:20 am on April 28.

AT-Menace

Someone smashed open an automated teller machine in front of a building on Smith Street on May 1 and cleaned it out, law enforcement officials said.

The bandit pried open the cash dispenser, which is affixed to the outside of a storefront between Dean and Bergen streets, sometime between 9:30 and 11:30 am, police said. The burglar made off with \$4,920, cops said.

No Casanova

A scalawag robbed a woman on Flatbush Avenue on May 1 after she refused to give the guy her number, according to a report.

The victim said she was crossing the intersection at Fourth Avenue at 8:50 am when the galoot, whom she did not know, approached and made the bold request. She ignored the brute and he

POLICE

BLOTTER



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grabbed her phone, debit, and credits cards from her front pocket and took off, the report states.

Scram jams

A sneak snatched a woman’s phone from her purse while she shopped in a Fulton Street clothing store on May 2 and she only noticed when her music stopped playing, officers said.

The 21-year-old victim told police she was shopping in the store between Bridge and Duffield streets at 3:20 pm and queued up some choice tunes on her phone before putting it in her bag.

After about five minutes of shopping, the music stopped and, when she checked her purse, the gadget was gone, cops said.

88TH PRECINCT
Fort Greene–Clinton Hill

Soaked

A crew of violent women attacked a 31-year-old lady as she walked near the intersection of N. Portland Avenue and Auburn Place on May 9, cops said.

The victim told police she was walking down the street at 8:30 am when the group set upon her, kicking her and hitting her in the head

with umbrellas. The assault left her with a swollen forehead and a cut on her lip, officers said.

Hoist and haul

An intruder pushed his way into a man’s Carlton Avenue house and stole the victim’s wallet and two bicycles on May 2, according to law enforcement officials.

The man told the authorities he was taking the garbage out in front of his building between DeKalb and Lafayette avenues at 4:15 am, when the invader came up from behind and pushed him into his house.

“Give me your stuff,” the goon supposedly said.

The victim forked over his wallet, a report says. Unsatisfied, the villain ran upstairs, grabbed two bikes from the hall, hoisted them on his shoulder, and ran out the door, cops said.

Up the vigil-ante

Cops cuffed a Fulton Street bodega clerk after they say he hit an unruly customer over the head with a baton on May 7.

The 54-year-old customer told cops he got into an argument with the clerk inside the store between Lafayette Avenue and Fort Greene Place at 1:10 am and started throw-

ing merchandise around the store, then put up his arms as if he wanted to fight, according to a police report.

The 31-year-old cashier took out a club and started banging the counter with it to scare off the angry customer, the report says. The customer continued his tantrum and was trying to climb over the counter when the clerk let him have it, cops said. Authorities took the customer to Brooklyn Hospital Center and arrested the worker.

Let himself in

Cops arrested a 56-year-old man for burglary after they say they found him in the hall of a building on Leferts Place on May 8.

A passerby alerted authorities to a suspicious man trying to force his way into a building between Grand and Classon avenues at 12:43 am, according to a police report. Officers went in to check it out, and found the fellow sitting on the stairs on the fourth floor, the report says.

“I let myself in,” the man supposedly said when the officers approached, but cops soon discovered he did not live in the building and was not invited by anyone who does, the report states.

Take her shelter

Cops arrested a 51-year-old woman inside a shelter on Tillary Street on May 5 after they say she stole another lady’s purse.

The 21-year-old victim told the authorities she saw

the older woman take her handbag from inside the facility between Prince and Navy streets at 11 pm. Police recovered \$24 from the woman’s shoe, according to a report.

Mixed signals

A tricky trio took off with a couple of cellphones from a Myrtle Avenue telecommunications store on May 8, evading an employee’s efforts to stop them.

A worker at the shop between Ryerson Street and Grand Avenue told cops she saw two of the crooks standing near a merchandise counter at 5:13 pm. The third lowlife created a distraction at the register and his partners in crime headed for the door, the report says.

The worker tried to block the exit, but the ruffians pushed her aside and made like a phone signal going into a tunnel, cops said.

Enter-take-ment

A scoundrel smashed his or her way in to a car parked on Hall Street on May 9 and jacked the built-in entertainment system, police stated.

The 26-year-old owner told the authorities he parked his Dodge Avenger near Park Avenue at 8:30 am and, when he returned at 5 pm, the rear window was shattered. The entertainment system included satellite navigation, a television screen, and a camera, according to a police report.

No transfer

A thief swiped a senior’s wallet as she road the bus on Fulton Street on May 9, law enforcement officials related.

The 75-year-old woman reported she boarded the B38 bus at Fulton Street and Lafayette Avenue at 6:35 pm.

On the bus, she felt someone bump into her and, when she got off at Saint James place between Lafayette and DeKalb avenues, the billfold was missing, according to a report.

— **Matthew Perlman**

68TH PRECINCT
Bay Ridge–Dyker Heights

Door-busters

A burglar bashed through the front entrance of a Fifth Avenue apartment and stole cash and gadgets from inside on May 9, police reported.

The victim told cops that he left his flat between 87th and 88th streets at 8:50 am and returned at 1:30 pm to find his front door kicked in. Inside, he discovered \$600, his Samsung Galaxy smartphone, and several personal identification papers missing.

Counter down

A lowlife lifted several items from the stashed purse of an employee of a Fifth Avenue store on May 8, authorities said.

The victim reported leaving her bag behind the counter of the business between 79th and 80th streets at 2 pm. When she returned at 5:45 pm, she saw that her wallet — containing her state identification, credit cards, and \$50 — were all gone, according to a report.

Bottom dollar

Two goons knocked out a man for his watch near a Fourth Avenue check cashing facility on May 8, police stated.

The victim said he was at the corner of 68th Street and Fourth Avenue — just a block away from the paycheck place — when the fiends walked up to him and demanded his money.

“Hand over everything,” one of the brutes supposedly barked.

The other lout then struck the man over the head with a blunt object, rendering him unconscious, according to the authorities. When he came to a short time later, the dastardly duo had disappeared with his timepiece, cops said.

— **Will Bredderman**

94TH PRECINCT
Greenpoint–Northside

Sweeping up

Cops cuffed a man who they say broke another man’s car window with a broom and then used the broken pieces of the handle to attack the motorist on Bedford Avenue on May 6.

The 29-year-old victim told police that he was arguing with the suspect at the corner of N. 10th Street at 12:30 pm when the accused smashed the glass on the driver’s side with the cleaning implement, then sliced him in the arm with the jagged wood.

The 38-year-old suspect was arrested and charged with assault.

One-night slam

A bar patron accepted an invitation to go home with a guy he met at a Bedford Avenue bar on May 5, then bashed his new friend over the head and stole his computer, officers reported.

The 52-year-old victim said he was at the watering hole between N. Seventh and N. Eighth streets at 3 am when he met the plotter and struck up a conversation. At 4 am, the pair left the saloon and went around the corner to buy some beer before heading back to the victim’s apartment and having more drinks, cops said.

At 8:30 am, the ornery guest grabbed a beer bottle and bashed the victim in the skull with it, the victim told cops. Before the victim could move, the intruder grabbed his Mac laptop computer, speakers, and computer mouse and vamoosed, according to the authorities. The victim called emergency services and they took him to hospital for treatment, a report says.

Flirty thief

A man was arrested for allegedly stealing a woman’s phone after chatting her up at a Manhattan Avenue nightclub on May 7, according to a police report.

The victim said she was at the lounge between Kent and Java streets at 10 pm when the suspect sat down next to her and started spitting game. After 20 minutes of smooth talk, the accused bumped into her, took her phone, and then left the bar, the victim reported.

She use a phone finder application to track her phone down to a telecommunications store on the corner of Grand Avenue and Moore Street, according to cops. Police say they found the suspect inside, arrested him, and charged him with grand larceny.

90TH PRECINCT
Southside–Bushwick

Drunken brawl

Cops cuffed a bar patron who they say drunkenly attacked a police officer after being thrown out of a Bogart Street tavern on May 11.

Police say they showed up in front of the watering hole at Thames Street at 5:40 am after getting reports of noise at the bar. When they arrived, they found the suspect out in the street shouting and screaming, police said.

Officers said that when they approached the accused he punched a cop in the face several times. The defendant also refused to be put in bracelets, they reported. When he arrived at the station house, the suspect allegedly slammed and kicked the door for the bathroom, damaging it. The 22-year-old was charged with assaulting a police officer and resisting arrest.

Deli meat

A scalawag stabbed a man who was standing outside of a Broadway deli on May 10, cops said.

The victim reported he was standing in front of the grocery between Lorimer and Leonard streets at 12:40 am when a lowlife in a brown leather coat ran up and started fighting with him for reasons he couldn’t figure out.

The fiend then pulled a knife and shanked the victim in the neck and chest, officers stated. The attacker ran away and the victim was taken to Woodhull Medical Center, the authorities said.

Jailhouse sock

An inmate attacked another detainee at the 90th Precinct station house on Union Avenue on May 10, police reported.

The 26-year-old jailbird was in a cell at the building between Montrose Avenue and Boerum Street at 9:35 am when he punched the 52-year-old fellow prisoner in the face several times, making his face swell up and bleed, according to law enforcement officials.

The suspect was charged with assault.

— **Danielle Furfaro**

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Sitt-ing vacant

Coney Islanders complain empty lots create sad crater in amusement district

By Will Bredderman
The Brooklyn Paper

Denizens of the People's Playground complain that Thor Equities — the real estate giant owned by controversial land baron Joe Sitt — is giving Coney Island a bad image, and dread another summer of vacant, trash-filled lots at the heart of the amusement district.

A symbol of the blight, they say, is the firm's neglected "Welcome to Coney Island" sign at the corner of Stillwell and Surf avenues, with most of the bulbs dead.

"There are so many bulbs missing from the sign, it's shameful at this point. It's the first thing visitors see when they get off the train," said Coney's self-declared mayor Dick Zigun, founder of Side-shows by the Seashore.

Zigun also railed against the lack of upkeep of Thor's properties along Bowery Street.

"The problem with the lots is that they're dirty—they have garbage. I really wish they would clean them up, cover them, bring in rides, bring in anything that contributes to the neighborhood," he said.

Thor bought the plots during its early 2000s spending spree, when it acquired 13 acres of the amusement district, including the now-defunct park Astroland, where

Luna Park stands today. The parcels were home to McCullough's Kiddie Park for more than three decades, but Sitt whittled McCullough's footprint to a fraction of its former size by refusing to renew leases on the various lots as they expired. When the final contract came up in 2012, the last remnant of the fun-zone got the boot — leaving the space totally deserted.

Sitt briefly rented the space between Stillwell Avenue and W. 15th Street to Cha Cha's Steeplechase Fun Park, but the theme park was destroyed in Hurricane Sandy and has since sat vacant, steadily accumulating rubbish.

Business leaders said they have begged Thor to remove the gathering garbage, and were successful in getting the firm to do a cursory clean-up two months ago. But more trash soon accumulated, again making the heart of the famous amusement area look blighted as the summer season approaches.

With Thor seeming to take little responsibility for the property, neighbors think the only remedy would be a new tenant.

"We are hoping some development will come to those lots sooner rather than later, and they'll be cleaned up and spruced up like the rest of

Coney Island," said Dennis Vourderis, co-owner of Deno's Wonder Wheel Park and president of the Alliance for Coney Island business group.

But given Sitt's track record, few expect the lots to see any development while he owns them.

Sitt kicked out Astroland and nearly all of his other tenants in 2008, turning Coney Island—which the Bloomberg Administration had hoped to revitalize—into a ghost town.



in the center of the renewed amusement area. Real estate experts suggest that Sitt may be holding his remaining properties hostage from development in the hope of another payday from a frustrated city. "I would guess he's holding onto them waiting for the city to buy him out again," said leading People's Playground real estate broker Joe Vitacco. "He's a flipper. He holds onto it a little longer than the average flipper." Vitacco pointed that the lots lie between the larger part of Luna Park and the fun-zone's newest and biggest attractions—the new Thunderbolt roller coaster due to open this summer, and the recently-restored B&B Carousel. Luna Park also operates the lighting system of the Parachute Jump, and hopes to build a water park next door to the new Thunderbolt. The broker said it would make sense for Luna Park to expand into Sitt's parcels in between. Curiously, a document on Thor Equities' website from about 2012—which appears to be promoting its storefront spaces on Surf Avenue—labels the vacant lots as "Luna Park Extension." But the bigs at Luna Park said they have never even been able to get Thor on the phone to talk about possible real estate deals. "Four years we've been in Coney Island, and we have not been able to talk to Joe Sitt," said Valerio Ferrari, president of Central Amusements International, which runs Luna Park. Thor did not respond to repeated calls for comment.

Photo by Steve Solomonson

People's Playground leaders complain that Thor Equities's properties off Stillwell Avenue are lying fallow for yet another summer.

After former Councilman Domenic Recchia helped block the use of eminent domain to seize the fallow land, the city

agreed in 2009 to cough up more than \$95.6 million to buy less than seven acres of Sitt's property so that development

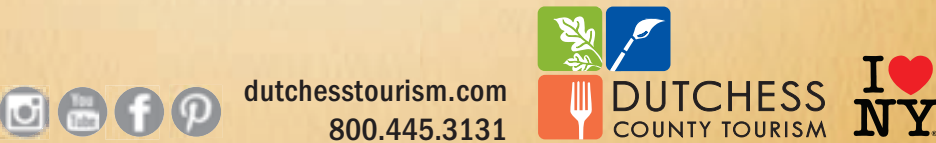
could go forward. That left Sitt with a tidy \$50 million in taxpayer-funded profit while he retained sizable holdings

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WHOLE...

Continued from page 1 trucks," said Martin Bisi. "I've actually stopped walking on that side because of it."

Park Slope cyclist and road-safety gadfly Doug Gordon snapped a photograph of a Whole Foods forklift driving over a bike lane on the afternoon of April 28. Gordon said he has seen the same thing happen a few times over the last month, but a spokesman for the craft-beer-and-prosciutto dispensary claimed that Gordon's snapshot showed a one-time occurrence and compared the forklift to a car backing out of a driveway.

"It was an unfortunate incident, but it was a one-off incident and it happens," Michael Sinatra said. "There is

a lot of activity that goes on in the loading dock, but we work hard to make sure that bike lane is clear."

But another Park Slope cycling advocate argued that Whole Foods is using a public space for a private function and that the company could have easily put its loading bays on its lot. The organic-centric grocer should work with the Department of Transportation to rejigger Third Avenue so that bike-riders' right of way is preserved, the activist said.

"It's disappointing no one raised this as an issue before the building was built," said Alex Knight. "As of right now, it's less safe than it was before they opened and that needs to change."



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From left, Christina Warrington, teacher Steven House, Elizabett Baez, Millaine Jena, Dominick Airn, and Idaliza Pena are over the moon about going to space camp in Turkey next month.

They have liftoff!

W’burg kids headed to space camp in Turkey

By Danielle Furfaro
The Brooklyn Paper

Houston, they have some plane tickets.

A dozen kids and teachers from MS 126 John Ericsson Middle School in Williamsburg have spent the past two school years preparing to go to space camp in Turkey. Now they are almost ready to blast off and could not be more thankful to their school for getting them rocket ready.

“This seems like an opportunity you could never get anywhere else,” said eighth grader Millaine Sena. “And I have never been to any camp.”

The 10 students and two teach-

ers from the school have been fund-raising all year to make the \$18,000 they need to all go to Space Camp Turkey. There, the kids will get to simulate zero gravity and a frictionless environment, and will take rides in a high-gravity chair, among other exciting opportunities.

Kids come from all over the world to attend the space camp, which is in the city of Izmir. They spend the week there hanging out with other kids and studying the physics of the great beyond.

To prepare themselves for the trip, the students have spent the past two years working on specialized science coursework after school. They have

studied gravity, biology in different physical environments, and space travel. Also, each kid has been assigned an international “e-pal” who he or she Skypes with on a weekly basis. The hope there is that the youngsters will better appreciate the wonders of social life here on earth, the school’s principal said.

“One of the goals of the program is building social awareness and making them socially more diverse hope in the end they become young adults that respect diversity,” said headmaster Marcos Bausch.

The group will leave for the trip on June 27 and stay through July 8.



Rebar owner Jason Stevens abruptly closed his restaurant last Friday and is accused by some of running off with hundreds of thousands in deposits for future weddings.

REBAR...

Continued from page 1

Wednesday afternoon.

“It’s nice to see the positive aspects of humanity,” said Victoria Friedrich, a public school teacher who had a Feb. 2015 wedding booked at Rebar, and paid \$20,000 for it up front. “But the financial loss is devastating.”

Rebar’s owner Jason Stevens owes the government millions of dollars in back taxes, the news website Gothamist reported, citing former employees of the venue as sources. It is also unclear if Stevens has actually filed for bankruptcy protection, as suggested by the signs he posted on Rebar’s window last week.

If Stevens really did file, it could limit the legal resources available to the now not-so-happy couples.

Calls to Stevens and Rebar were not returned, but the district attorney’s office said it is aware of the situation and is looking into any impropriety.

None of this is an immediate assistance to the heartbroken couples that are out thousands of dollars and a wedding space.

But at least one we spoke to said that while crushed, they wouldn’t let it get them down.

“I feel broke and broken,” said Friedrich. “But the show must go on, and we will get married.”

RAVES...

Continued from page 1

dancing and moving,” said Fabricant of her first Morning Glory experience. “I was used to raves where everyone was on drugs and alcohol. But this had an atmosphere that was so warm and loving.”

Revelers who fork over \$20 to attend the raves are called “citizens” and get to dance from 6:30 am to 10:30 am. The cover also includes a massage to work out the kinks before heading in to the office and there are fruit and smoothie vendors from the company Juice Witches on hand to provide all the social — and gastrointestinal — lubrication the party needs.

The organizers of the Morning Glory raves have very specific reasons for throwing the parties on Wednesday mornings.

“It is not an after-party. We do not want it to have

that vibe, and we do not want intoxicated people showing up,” said Fabricant. “And the point of this is to help with the daily grind. This is part of a healthy regimen.”

The raves might have other unintended consequences.

“A lot of people who went to the Morning Glory parties in London and went to job interviews that same day got the job,” said Fabricant.

The mix masters said they play house music, but they strive for a sunnier sound.

“I go for a really high-vibe, celebratory, life-affirming, groovy house set,” said Blank.

The next Morning Glory party is scheduled for June 18.

“Morning Glory” raves at Kinfolk 94 (94 Wythe Ave. between N. 10th and N. 11 streets in Williamsburg, www.facebook.com/morninggloryvillenc) June 18, 6:30 am–10:30 am. \$20.

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BUSINESS, BROOKLYN STYLE – ADVERTISEMENT

Enjoy a true Italian Sunday dinner with the family at Belli Osteria

BY CAMILLE SPERRAZZA

No time to cook a Sunday dinner for the family?

Bring the entire clan to Belli Osteria Italian restaurant in Clinton Hill. The establishment looks to re-create traditional Sunday afternoon dinners with the family by offering a two-course pre-fixe meal for \$18.95 per person. For \$21.95 per person, you’ll get dessert, too.

Start with eggplant parmigiana, Caesar salad, or meatballs in tomato sauce. For the main course, choose fettuccine alfredo with chicken or shrimp; veal scalloped marsala with fettuccine; chicken parmigiana with spaghetti; or rigatoni with spicy vodka sauce, to name a few of the options.

Owners Andres Rodas and Andres Whang are committed to preparing recipes that stir memories of yesteryear. Each morning a chef makes a huge pot of fresh tomato sauce, adding onion, basil, garlic, salt, and pepper, and cooking it for four hours, over low temperatures. It’s what Rodas remembers his grandmother doing, and it is the way many Italian households still cook tomato sauce today.

This sauce, tweaked according to the recipe that calls for it, is then poured over dishes such as homemade eggplant parmigiana, or baked rib-eye meatballs with spaghetti.

Bread is served hot, straight from the oven. Rather than butter, it’s accompanied with roasted tomatoes mixed



(Clockwise from top) Belli Osteria on Fulton Street. The unique bar is the focal point of the barroom. Spaghetti calabrese and this decadent dessert are not to be missed. Chef and owner Andres Rodas.

Photos by Elizabeth Graham

tin ceilings in the main dining area. A unique, large, round tin-and-wood bar is the focal point of that room, trimmed in a shade of green that conjures images of antiquated beauty. Dark wood furniture is scattered about, and bottles of wine line the walls. A spacious area in the back is ideal for parties, and has a

huge picture window overlooking Fulton Street. The restaurant can accommodate 68 diners.

Desserts are prepared fresh daily, right on the premises. Enjoy a warm chocolate cake, with a chocolate-caramel center. It is decorated with mascarpone whipped cream and nuts, served on an oversized dish

decorated with cocoa. Or, try the classic tiramisu, with its creamy filling, dusted with cocoa powder.

Come for brunch where you can choose a la carte selections such as waffles with blueberry compote or caramelized French toast with apples and brown sugar. Or, order the pre-fixe \$16.95 brunch. It includes

an egg dish, two aperitifs, and coffee.

Belli Osteria [860 Fulton St. between Clinton and Waverly Avenues in Clinton Hill, (347) 799-1230, www.bellibrooklyn.com]. Open Sunday through Thursday, 5–11 pm; Fridays and Saturday, 5–11:30 pm. Brunch, Saturdays and Sundays, 11 am–4 pm.



(718) 260-2500 The Brooklyn Paper's essential guide to the Borough of Kings May 16-22, 2014

Chain 'n the gang

Library bike tour narrates Brooklyn's criminal history

By Matthew Perlman
The Brooklyn Paper

Take a tour of Brooklyn's sordid mafioso past—and check out some books while you're at it.

The Brooklyn Public Library's second annual Bike the Branches cycling bonanza is happening on May 17, and organizers this year have planned 12 themed routes to carry riders between prose palaces. The "Underworld" jaunt brings bikers to the sites of former speakeasies, the childhood homes of famous gangsters, and the scenes of infamous crimes, with a litany of libraries along the way. The event will put pedal-pushing Brooklynites in touch with the borough's once-dark corners, organizers say.

"It gives people an on-the-ground feeling of Brooklyn's mysterious past," said Cheryl Todmann, director of special events for the library.

This is no spin around the block—the route is 39 miles. It starts at the Park Slope branch, not far from two childhood homes of Al Capone and from Grand Prospect Hall at Third and Prospect avenues, where Capone supposedly got in the fight that landed him the nickname "Scarface." It then stretches from one end of the borough

to the other before ending up at Grand Army Plaza.

From Capone territory, the trip heads down to the Windsor Terrace branch, which sits near a cluster of former speakeasies off the Caton Avenue corner of Prospect Park. Next the route winds through Borough Park and past the site of a 1934 armored truck robbery on 18th Avenue in Bensonhurst, and down into Coney Island. At the Sea Gate end of the Boardwalk is where Abe Reles mysteriously fell from a hotel window in 1940 on the day he was set to testify against the mob in court. Posthumously, Reles became known as the "Canary Who Could Sing but Couldn't Fly."

The second half of the ride doubles back through Sheepshead Bay, Flatbush and Brownsville, brings participants past a few more speakeasies in Clinton Hill and Williamsburg, and, before looping to the destination, offers a stop at Willie Sutton's childhood home on High Street near Sands Street in Brooklyn Heights. "Willie the Actor," was a notorious bank robber who got away with \$2 million during his career and the neighborhood now brimming with financiers was known as "Irishtown" in his day.

Not all the routes are so long or unsavory.



Book 'em: Library employee Noah Suppin dresses the part for a cycling tour that brings riders to locations from Brooklyn's criminal past.

An eight-mile Where's Waldo?—themed course offers the most family-friendly option and the organizers emphasize that cyclists can take shortcuts or hop on public

transit at any time because the day is designed to get as many people involved as possible.

"It's for everyone—from families who are going to one or two branches—to cycling enthusiasts," said Todmann.

Prizes will be awarded to the riders who visit the most branches during the day. Last year's winner saw 27 of the borough's 60. But for most riders, Bike the Branches is just about experiencing the borough.

"I'm pretty new to the city, and I want to get into bike riding," said Christie Williams, who recently moved to Brooklyn from Washington, D.C. "This is a great chance to see Brooklyn."

Williams was at Central Library on May 13, getting some headgear for her and her daughter at a free helmet giveaway held ahead of the branch ride. Riders who sign up for Bike the Branches can also get a free pass to rent a CitiBike for the day.

No matter how many branches bike-riders hit, the day is a chance to do some sightseeing and give that library card a workout.

"I believe in the public library, so this is a good way to show my support," said Ravi Ragbir, a Brooklyn Heights resident.

Library honchos expect 500 people to participate this year.

"A lot of people may only now their local branch and Central," said Todmann.

"Bike the Branches" library bike ride (Various starting locations and routes, misc.brooklynpubliclibrary.org/btb). Saturday, May 17, 10 am–5 pm. Celebration at Grand Army Plaza 5 pm–7 pm. \$20.

Drunk, athletic, and old

Brooklyn's criminal past is not the only option for a Bike the Branches tour. The library's Brooklyn Collection helped prepare 12 different routes that focus on different aspects of the borough's past and alcohol-soaked present. Our panel of expert recommenders picked a basketful so you do not have to.

- Bottom's up Brooklyn
- Brooklyn baseball
- Early Brooklyn



Brooklyn has loved liquor for as long as it has been inhabited. The route features historic buildings from Brooklyn's beer-brewing heyday, such as the former Leibmann and Rheingold breweries on Forest Street. Schaefer Brewing Company on Kent Avenue, and Excelsior on Pulaski Street. The tour also features some newer points— and pints — of interest, including the Brooklyn Brewery, the Kings County Distillery, and the Van Brunt Stillhouse. But if you plan on sampling the modern libations, you should probably ditch the bike.



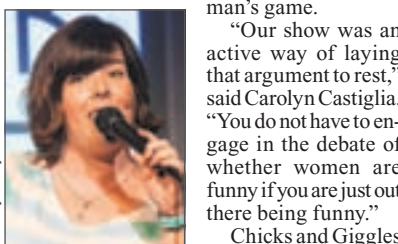
This tour hits sites connected to America's pastime in the borough of Kings. It features the homes of famous Brooklyn Dodgers, including Duke Snider, Sandy Koufax, and Jackie Robinson, stops near Prospect Park's Parade Grounds, where semi-pro games were once played, and The Wallace Grounds, a ball field near the Washington Irving branch that hosted Negro League teams. And of course the pilgrimage must stop at the former site of Ebbets Fields on Bedford Avenue at Sullivan Place, where a 20-story housing complex stands today.



This is the Old Brooklyn route—the very Old Brooklyn route. It includes stops at Native American sites, such as Marechawick, a site on Bridge Street between Front and York streets thought to have been a village run by an offshoot of the Canarsee tribe. It also directs attention to the Revolutionary War, including the once-higher spot in Cobble Hill called Ponkiesbergh, where George Washington is said to have stood looking down at the Battle of Brooklyn being fought in today's Gowanus. Just bring your pedal-powered DeLorean.

COMEDY Ladies night

These ladies don't need a laugh track. The Chicks and Giggles Comedy Anniversary show in Gowanus plans to prove once and for all that garnering giggles isn't just a man's game.



"Our show was an active way of laying that argument to rest," said Carolyn Castiglia. "You do not have to engage in the debate of whether women are funny if you are just out there being funny."

Chicks and Giggles was originally a women's comedy showcase that ran weekly in various venues in Manhattan and Brooklyn from 2004 through 2008. This massive show at Littlefield on Degraw Street between Third and Fourth Avenues celebrates the 10th anniversary of its inception, and will feature comedienne who have spent years honing their jokes in front of New York audiences as well as those who were just kids when it all started. The revue tickles more than the funny bone, Castiglia said.

"There is something secretly fun about all-girl events that harkens back to sleepovers in middle school and making out with girls in the bathroom at all-girls colleges," she said.

Featured funny women include Ophira Eisenberg, Castiglia, Nichelle Stephens, Erin and Her Cello, Jessica Delfino, Jacquetta Szathmari, Kambri Crews, Abbi Crutchfield, Livia Scott, Michelle Buteau, Carla Rhodes, and Cecil Sinclair.

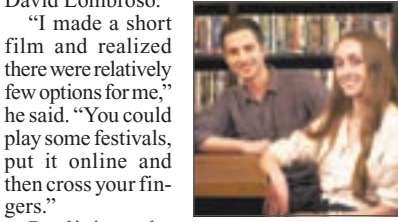
The show will also feature a memorial to Jiwon Lee, who was found dead in the Hudson River last week. Lee graced the Chicks and Giggles lineup several times when it was a regular event.

"Chicks and Giggles Comedy Anniversary Show" at Littlefield (622 Degraw St. between Fourth and Third Avenues in Gowanus, (718) 855-3388, www.littlefieldnyc.com), May 18 at 7:30 pm. \$5-\$8. —Danielle Furfaro

CINEMA Join the club

What do you do when you can't find a club that will accept you as a member? Start your own.

That was the initial inspiration behind Cinema Club, the monthly screening series held at the Williamsburg video store-cum-screening room, according to one of the group's founders David Lombroso.



"I made a short film and realized there were relatively few options for me," he said. "You could play some festivals, put it online and then cross your fingers."

Realizing he wasn't alone in his frustration, he and fellow filmmakers Juna Skenderi and Daniel Yankiver started Cinema Club.

At first, the group would pair a new work by an up-and-coming filmmaker with an established cult classic. Three years later, their screenings showcase submissions from around the world.

For their three-year anniversary party this Sunday at Glasslands (622 Kent Ave. between S. First and S. Second Streets in Williamsburg, (718) 599-1450, www.theglasslands.com), May 18 at 8 pm, \$10. —Robert Ham

Things are looking even brighter for Cinema Club as it enters its third year. It is now registered as a non-profit and has a couple of potential partnerships that could help sustain it for years to come, though Lombroso was reluctant to provide details.

Even without that help, the screening series isn't hurting for new work to present to local cinephiles. It gets at least one submission every day, and receives a steady stream of visitors to its website, where the film buffs maintain an archive of all the titles they have screened.

When pressed for a favorite among the dozens of efforts he and his partners have presented, Lombroso goes all the way back to the club's first meeting, which featured "Nothing Yet," a low-budget road movie by James Benson and Bernardo Britto about an indie rock band on tour.

"Like any parents hold their first child more dearly to their heart, I remember that one fondly," Lombroso said.

"Cinema Club" three-year anniversary party at Glasslands (289 Kent Ave. between S. First and S. Second Streets in Williamsburg, (718) 599-1450, www.theglasslands.com), May 18 at 8 pm, \$10. —Robert Ham

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WHERE TO

EDITORS' PICKS

SATURDAY
May 17

Navy gazing
The artists that inhabit the neighborhoods near the Brooklyn Navy Yard normally operate under the radar, but they are opening up their hatches for this weekend's SONYA Art Walk, named for the area south of the Navy Yard. Stroll around and find out what the visual creators of Fort Greene, Clinton Hill, and Bedford-Stuyvesant have to offer.

Noon–6 pm, also on May 18, at various locations [Fort Greene, Clinton Hill, and Bedford-Stuyvesant, www.sonyaonline.org, (347) 766-9720]. Free.

SUNDAY
May 18

Witbier is coming
Are you sick of Facebook spoilers ruining "Game of Thrones" before you can catch it on Monday on HBO Go? Watch the latest episode in real time on one of Lola Bklyn's two big screen TVs during their weekly viewing party. The restaurant will offer a strict "no talking" policy during the show, plus food and drink specials inspired by their favorite characters.

9 and 11 pm at Lola Bklyn [387 Myrtle Ave. between Clermont and Vanderbilt avenues in Fort Greene, (718) 858-1484, www.lolabklyn.com]. Free.

MONDAY
May 19

Mahjong show
Young Brooklynites enjoy their knitting, vinyl records, and large frame glasses. So, it only makes sense that another old-folks' activity has wheeled its way into the borough in the form of a mahjong league. Every Monday night, the Royal Palms Shuffleboard Club offers lessons to anyone who wants to learn to play this timeless game.

7:30 pm at Royal Palms Shuffleboard Club [514 Union St between Third Avenue and Nevins Street in Gowanus, (347) 223-4410, www.royal-palmsshuffle.com]. \$10.

TUESDAY
May 20

Gourd stiff
Enjoy a killer conversation about death? Was your favorite part of Passover Seder the plagues? Are you single? If so, you should check Morbid Anatomy Museum's single night, Morbid Curiosity, where you can meet like-minded folks who have also fantasized about driving a hearse and view fresh road kill as a potential art project.

8 pm at Morbid Anatomy Museum [424A Third Ave. at Seventh Street in Gowanus, www.morbidanatomy.bigcartel.com]. \$15.

WDNESDAY
May 21

Funny feelings
If you thought condoms on bananas was an awkward way to learn about the birds and the bees, just think about scripted sex-ed videos in ninth-grade health class. Now imagine watching these same videos as a grown adult, with booze in your hand, as comedians crack jokes.

8 pm at Union Hall [4702 Union St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Park Slope, (718) 638-4400, www.unionhallny.com]. \$8.

NINE DAYS IN BROOKLYN

FRI, MAY 16

ART, "ANATOMY OF A POWERHOUSE": Electrifying the Eli: Archival photo exhibition showing construction and early operation of the 74th Street Powerhouse. \$7 (\$5 for children 2-17 and seniors, free for members and children under 2). 10 am–4 pm. New York Transit Museum [Boerum Place at Schermerhorn Street in Downtown, (718) 694-1600], www.mta.info/mta/museum.

DANCE, COSMIC YOGA: \$15. 10 am, Noon, 7 pm. Body Actualized Center [143 Troutman St. between Central and Evergreen avenues in Bushwick, (347) 770-1437], bodyactualized.org.

ART, "CHICAGO IN L.A.": Judy Chicago's Early Work 1963-74": The first survey on the East Coast of the artist's early career. \$12 (suggested). 11 am–6 pm. Brooklyn Museum [200 Eastern Pkwy. at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights, (718) 638-5000], www.brooklynmuseum.org.

ART, "AI WEIWEI: According to What?": The first North American survey of the work of the provocative Chinese conceptual artist, sculptor, photographer, filmmaker, and activist. \$12 (suggested). 11 am–6 pm. Brooklyn Museum [200 Eastern Pkwy. at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights, (718) 638-5000], www.brooklynmuseum.org.

ART, "STARGAZING": Group show featuring work from Regina Bogat, Catherine Cullen, Craig Olson, and Mary Schilio. Free. 11 am–6 pm. Trestle Gallery [168 7th St. between Second and Third avenues in Gowanus, (718) 858-9069], www.trestlegallery.org.

THEATER, "THE SEEDS OF ABRAHAM": Part Two of the Prophet's Cycle": Family drama for teens and up, written by Angelica Chéri. \$15–\$25 (children and seniors \$12–\$15). 8 pm. Billie Holiday Theatre [1368 Fulton St. between Marcy and Brooklyn avenues in Bedford-Stuyvesant, (718) 636-0918], www.thebillieholiday.org.

THEATER, "RENT": Impoverished young artists and musicians struggle to survive in New York under the shadow of HIV/AIDS. \$18 (\$14 children under 12, seniors). 8 pm. Gallery Players [199 14th St., between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Park Slope, (212) 352-3101], galleryplayers.com.

THEATER, "WEST SIDE STORY": Classic musical about two star-crossed-lovers caught between warring gangs in 1960s New York. \$25 (\$23 seniors, children under 18). 8 pm. Heights Players [26 Wilcox Pl. between Joralemon and State streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 237-2752], www.heightsplayers.org.

MUSIC, AIR FOR ANTS, THE KHAN MEN, SICOBONDI, THE HOODRATS, RYAN COLE & THE PAPER SOULS: \$8. 8 pm. Trash Bar [256 Grand St. at Driggs Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 599-1000], www.thrashbar.com.

MUSIC, BOOTBLACKS, MERCI LA NUIT, UNUR, WITH DJS MARBAR AND SHENAN FRAGUADAS: \$10. 9 pm. Union Pool [484 Union Ave. at Meeker Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 609-0484], www.myspace.com/unionpool.

MUSIC, SARA BOUCHARD & THE SALT PARADE WITH THE ALEX MALLET BAND: Free. 10 pm. Tea Lounge [837 Union St. at Seventh Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 789-2762], www.tealoungeyny.com.

Photo by Stefano Giovannini

Sword on the street: John Estep, a member of the Society for Creative Anachronism, will be on hand in traditional Viking garb at the Viking Fest in Owl's Head Park on May 17.

liamsburg, (718) 599-1000], www.thrashbar.com.
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SAT, MAY 17
TALK, INTRO TO BIRD WATCHING: Take a tour and learn about the 250 species of birds that call Prospect Park home with Brooklyn Bird Club. Free. Noon–1 pm. Prospect Park Audubon Center [Enter park at Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue in Prospect Park, (718) 287-3400], www.prospectpark.org/audubon.
MUSIC, DYKER SINGERS: Concert - be there or be square - the best vocals of the 50's and 60's. Free. 1 pm. Dyker Library [8202 13th Ave. at 82nd Street in Dyker Heights, (718) 748-6261].
THEATER, "RIGOLETTO": A hunch-backed jester seeks revenge against the Duke who seduced his daughter. \$26 (\$21 students under 25, seniors; \$5 teens). 3 pm. Our Lady of Perpetual Help School [5902 Sixth Avenue in Bay Ridge, (718) 439-8067], www.olphschool-brooklyn.org.
MUSIC, "THE WOMEN GATHER": Women's drumming group Grace Drums performs in the African tradition and beyond. \$20 (\$15 students, seniors). 7 PM. Kumble Theater at Long Island University [DeKalb and Flatbush avenues in Downtown, (718) 488-1624], www.brooklyn.liu.edu/KumbleTheater.
ART, "3 TO 1: An Artistic One Night Stand": Visit three Brooklyn artists as they spend 24 hours in a hotel room collaborating for the first time on an interdisciplinary installation using dance, music, and video. \$8–\$20. 7 pm. Nu Hotel Brooklyn [85 Smith St. at State Street in Downtown], thecreatorscollective.org/3to1.
MUSIC, MUSTARD PLUG, DEAL'S GONE BAD, BUTCHER KNIVES, THE FAD: \$13–\$15. 7:30 pm. Knitting Factory [361 Metropolitan Ave. at Havemeyer Street in Williamsburg, (347) 529-6696], ny.knittingfactory.com.
MUSIC, PEELANDER-ZI, MATH THE BAND, BLUEJAY: \$10. 8 pm. Glasslands [289 Kent Ave. at S. Second Street in Williamsburg], www.glasslands.com.

http://
Find lots more listings online at BrooklynPaper.com/Events
MUSIC, BAMCAFE: A Brooklyn Tribute to Amiri Baraka. Free. 9 pm. BAM Cafe [30 Lafayette Ave. between Ashland Place and St. Felix Street in Fort Greene], www.bam.org/programs/bamcafe-live.
MUSIC, BENEFIT: Planning for Burial, Sea of Bones, Belus: Book launch party for "Metal Cats," proceeds benefit Bobbi and the Strays, a local no-kill animal shelter. \$7. 9 pm. Union Pool [484 Union Ave. at Meeker Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 609-0484], www.myspace.com/unionpool.
MUSIC, SOPHIE, LEE BANNON, DUBBEL DUTCH: \$10. 11:30 pm. Glasslands [289 Kent Ave. at S. Second Street in Williamsburg], www.glasslands.com.
ART, "SACRED SITES" OPEN HOUSE WEEKEND: Culturally important religious open to share their remarkable art and architecture with the public. See Landmarks website for a list of participating sites and hours. Free. Various locations, see website, (212) 995-5260, www.ny-landmarks.org.
VIKING FEST: The East Coast Scandinavian hosts this annual event featuring a Viking Fillage, half-size replica of a Viking ship and crew. Free. 10 am–5 pm. Owl's Head Park [68th St. and Narrows Avenue in Bay Ridge, (718) 748-5950].
TALK, (SHEEP) FLEECE FESTIVAL: The Zoo's sheep lose their woolly winter coats at the hands of a master sheep shearer. Live music, fleecy fun crafts, barn animal demonstrations and keeper talks. Free. 11 am–5 pm. Prospect Park Zoo [450 Flatbush Ave. at Ocean Avenue in Prospect Park, (718) 399-7339], www.prospectparkzoo.com.
SPRING CARNIVAL: St. Saviour Catholic Academy's spring party with live music, magic, soccer clinic, fire truck, rides games, and more. Free. Noon–5 pm. St. Saviour Catholic Academy [701 Eighth Ave. in Park Slope, (718) 768-8000], www.stsaviourschool.org.
ART, EXHIBITION AND FUND-RAISER: Open house, installation, talks, panels, party! Proceeds benefit Arts Gowanus. \$10 (suggested). Noon–11 pm. Gowanus Loft [61 9th Street, #C8, near Smith Street in Gowanus], www.artsgowanus.org.
ART, BENEFIT: "100 Works on Paper": Kentler Gallery's annual benefit featuring silent auctions and raffles for work from more than 100 artists who have donated work. \$200. 6 pm. Kentler International Drawing Space [353 Van Brunt St. between Wolcott and Dikeman streets in Red Hook, (718) 875-2098], www.kentlergallery.org.
See 9 DAYS on page 10

CNG

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Listed:
SRDS



Leaf it to me: Ava Chin, author of “Eating Wildly,” leads a foraging class in Fort Greene Park.

Free urban lunch!

Foraging book gives meaning to ‘street food’

By Sarah Iannone
for The Brooklyn Paper

Ava Chin is after feast of mind.

Chin’s upcoming memoir “Eating Wildly: Foraging for Life, Love and the Perfect Meal” talks about how she started her serious foraging habit to take her attention off a hard breakup, channelling her energy into learning about plants and how to find wild edible weeds in the most unlikely places.

Chin grew up in Queens, where her first foraging discovery as a young child was field garlic, which reminded her of the scallions and the Chinese chives that her grandfather used to cook with.

“My mother wouldn’t want me to eat it but I would always eat it,” she said.

She began her Brooklyn gathering in Clinton Hill and Park Slope. At first, though, she didn’t think of the area as a place where nature thrived.

“I was a little nervous when I first started out, but as I started forging I realized there were actually plenty of wild edibles to find,” Chin said.

She soon started writing about her plant-seeking adventures for a local section of the New York Times focused on Fort Greene, Clinton Hill, and Prospect Park and, after a year of that, Chin expanded her range into a citywide column called “Urban Forager.”



If she had to pick one place in Brooklyn to treat as a wild supermarket, Chin said she would have to go with Prospect Park.

“There are so many great areas that are a little more wooded and secluded,” she said.

Brooklyn’s backyard offers a forager an escape from the urban pollution afflicting much of the borough, according to Chin, with many areas that are more elevated and further away from the toxin-belching machines that dominate the city.

“There aren’t a lot of cars that necessarily go through there, and there are certain hours of the day that cars don’t drive through the park,” said Chin. “Your chances of finding more pristine wild edibles are grander.”

Prospect Park has some of the city’s best wild edibles, such as mulberries, mushrooms and day lilies, Chin said. The untrained eye passes over them, but these leafy delicacies flourish throughout the park’s grounds, from just off of the jogging paths to the unlandscaped edges of ponds, she said.

Along the borough’s sidewalks, Chin practices and teaches what she calls “guerrilla foraging” or “street foraging” — trawling tree planters and cracks in the pavement for natural items to nosh.

On these jaunts, Chin explains she isn’t actually collecting things to eat, but rather is inspecting what snacks are growing from block to block.

“It’s to kind of sharpen my foraging skills,” she said.

Chin shows others how to play these hunger games so that they might hone their edible-spotting skills for use in less grimy climates.

“If they find themselves in an area that’s a little bit more rural or a little further away from pollution they’ll already be trained to see it,” said Chin.

Chin’s memoir comes out this month.

She will be read from her new book at the Central Library on May 18.

9 DAYS...

Continued from page 8

SUN, MAY 18

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

MUSIC, HAITIAN FLAG “SEL-EBRASYON”: Outdoor celebration of Haitian culture with live music, crafts, food, and dance workshops. **Free.** Noon–6 pm. Parkside Plaza [Ocean Ave. at Ocean Ave & Parkside Avenue in Prospect Park, (347) 565–4429], www.haiticulturalx.org.

THEATER, SWEENEY TODD: Come see an ensemble production of famed musical “Sweeney Todd,” about London’s legendary demon barber, complete with chamber orchestra. \$20. 4 pm. Fourth Avenue Presbyterian Church [6753 Fourth Ave, at the corner of 68th Street in Bay Ridge, (917) 406–3481].

MUSIC, KETTLE MUSIC COLLECTIVE: \$10 (suggested), 6 pm. Ibeam Music Studio (168 Seventh St. between Second and Third avenues in Gowanus), ibeambrooklyn.com.

MUSIC, “SPLIT’N LANES & DODGIN’ GUTTERS: Classic Motorcycle Show”: First annual biker bash, Norton Records DJ set. **Free.** 9 pm. Brooklyn Bowl [61 Wythe Ave. between N. 11th and N. 12th streets in Williamsburg, (718) 963–3369], www.brooklynbowl.com.

ART, BROOKLYN MINI MARKET: Renegade Craft Fair hosts pop-up brunch and local design market with shopping, games, and photo booth. **Free.** 11 am–5 pm. Brooklyn Night Bazaar [165 Banker St. at Norman Avenue in Greenpoint], bkbazaar.com.

NORWEGIAN CONSTITUTION DAY PARADE: Celebrate the 62nd annual event - this year Norway’s history celebrates 200 years of the signing of the its Constitution. **Free.** 1:30 pm. Kick off [Third Ave. at 81st Street in Bay Ridge, (718) 745–6653], www.may-17paradeny.com.

MON, MAY 19

SPORTS, DOUBLES SHUFFLEBOARD TOURNAMENT: Eight teams to compete for a cash prize of \$100. \$6 (RSPV required). 8:30 pm. The Diamond [43 Franklin St. near Cayler Street in Greenpoint, (718) 383–5030], www.thediamondbrooklyn.com.

COMEDY, “ED SULLIVAN ON ACID”: **Free.** 9 pm. Freddy’s Bar [627 Fifth Ave. between 17th and 18th streets in Greenwood Heights, (718) 768–0131], www.freddysbar.com.

TUES, MAY 20

COMEDY, “THE FANCY SHOW”: Producers Michael Joyce, Langston Ker-man, Lane Pieschel, Simmons McDavid and Jenny Zigrino share the stage with local talent. **Free.** 8 pm. Bar Reis [375 Fifth Ave. between 5th and 6th

streets in Park Slope, (718) 974–2412].
MUSIC, “THE WAY YA LIKE” OPEN MIC: Local bands, musicians, singers, artists, and poets ply their craft on an open stage. Play or just listen. **Free.** 8 pm. Goodbye Blue Monday [1087 Broadway, between Lawton and Dodworth streets in Bedford-Stuyvesant, (718) 453–6343], www.myspace.com/goodbyebluemondayinc.

WED, MAY 21

TALK, TROLLEY TOUR: “Hidden Gems of Green-Wood”: See Green-Wood’s glacial ponds, hear the tragic story of Charlotte Canda and visit her memorial and the graves of Louis Moreau Gottschalk, “Bill the Butcher,” Lola Montez, and other noteworthy Brooklynites. \$15 (\$10 members). 1 pm. Green-Wood Cemetery [Fifth Avenue and 25th Street in Greenwood Heights, (718) 768–7300], www.greenwood.com.

TWIN PEAKS BINGO: Gather with fellow Twin Peaks lovers, gorge on doughnuts and Agent Cooper cocktails, and play bingo! **Free.** 8:30 pm. Videology [308 Bedford Ave. at S. First Street in Williamsburg], www.videology.info.

MUSIC, SPLIT SINGLE, DESERT SHARKS, LEAPLING: \$10. 8:30 pm. Glasslands [289 Kent Ave. at S. Second Street in Williamsburg], www.glasslands.com.

THURS, MAY 22

MUSIC, AFRICAN DANCE PARTY: Sierra Leone’s Refugee All Stars, OkayAfrica Electrifique w/ Chief Boima & DJ Underdog: Part of Bric/Brooklyn Bridge Park’s summer “Celebrate Brooklyn” dance party series. **Free.** 7 pm. Brooklyn Bridge Park, Harbor View Lawn [Enter at Old Fulton St. near Furman Street in Dumbo], www.brooklynbridgepark.org.

COMEDY, FREESTANDING

STANDUP: Weekly comedy series with local talent and lots of hilarity. **Free.** 8 pm. Goodbye Blue Monday [1087 Broadway, between Lawton and Dodworth streets in Bedford-Stuyvesant, (718) 453–6343], www.myspace.com/goodbyebluemondayinc.

FRI, MAY 23

MUSIC, BRETT SAXON: **Free.** 9 pm. Tea Lounge [837 Union St. at Seventh Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 789–2762], www.tealounge.com.


SAT, MAY 24

MUSIC, FERAL FOSTER RECORD RELEASE SHOW: With Naomi Shelton and the Gospel Queens. **\$10.** 8:30 pm. Jalopy [315 Columbia St. between Hamilton Avenue and Woodhull Street in Red Hook, (718) 395–3214], www.jalopy.biz.



Royal Palms Shuffleboard Club [514 Union St. between Nevins Street and Third Avenue in Gowanus, (347) 223–4410, www.royalpalmsshuffle.com]. Open Mon–Wed, 6 pm–midnight; Thu, Fri, 6 pm–2 am; Sat, noon–2 am; Sun, noon–midnight.

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Doctors ditch scrubs for black ties

Methodist holds annual fund-raising gala

By Max Jaeger
The Brooklyn Paper

These doctors are burning the candle at both ends. New York Methodist Hospital held its annual Candlelight Gala at the Brooklyn Museum on May 10, celebrating the people who make the hospital possible and raising money to improve health-care at the 132-year-old Park Slope institution. Organizers said the event exceeded their own prognosis for success.

“A beautiful, iconic Brooklyn setting, delicious food, great entertainment, and distinguished honorees — not to mention 650 elegant and enthusiastic attendees — all combined to create a spectacular evening,” said Hospital spokeswoman Lyn Hill.



Attendees were treated to drinks and hors d'oeuvres before a dinner and awards ceremony. Hospital movers and shakers closed out the evening dancing to tunes by the Michael Hart Band.

The evening honored doctors Anthony G. Saleh and Jo-

seph J. Bove — both of whom have been with the medical center for more than two decades — for their leadership and direction, Hill said.

The fund-raiser garnered \$500,000 for medical programs, new equipment, and research, she said.



Photos by Stefano Giovannini

(Left) The Brooklyn Museum welcomed guests to New York Methodist Hospital's annual Candlelight Gala, on May 10. (Above) Pediatrician Pramod Narula and wife Kelly grab a bite during the gala.



Photo by Elizabeth Graham

Paint by letters

At-risk youngsters painted this mural chronicling the history of Greenpoint and depicting its future as the city's capital for film production. The kids worked under the guidance of the community group Groundswell and showed off the completed painting at Broadway Stages on May 7. Artists Esteban DelValle and Angel Garcia oversaw the project and Assemblyman Joe Lentol (D–Greenpoint), center, and Councilman Steve Levin (D–Greenpoint), middle right in suit, showed up for the grand unveiling.

BRIDGE...

Continued from page 1

and he tries to cancel out the construction noise with fans, but nothing seems to work.

“It’s become clear that this area is a vortex of traffic, noise, and pollution,” Gautier said.

A spokesman for the Department of Transportation said the agency is doing everything it can to help the situation, including buying new equipment, using smaller jackhammers, and covering work areas with sound-absorbing blankets every night. Sound levels are also measured every night there is construction and the noise produced doesn’t surpass legal limits, the rep said.

“The work remains in compliance with the DEP Noise Code and every effort has been made to pro-

vide the maximum protection from undesirable construction noise,” the spokesman said. “We continue to work closely with DEP to address noise concerns and look for additional opportunities to minimize the impact of this critical bridge rehabilitation project.”

But ruffled residents insist the agency worries more about keeping cars moving than people sleeping.

“The primary concern is traffic,” said Leslie Boyce, who lives in the same building as Gautier. “To hell with everyone else.”

The city admits that traffic is an important consideration, but said it is doing what it can to get these neighbors some rest.

“Work was shifted as much as possible to daytime hours on weekdays and weekends to expedite the project,” a transportation spokesman said. “But full closures of the bridge during daytime weekday hours would displace 100,000 vehicles onto Lower Manhattan and Downtown Brooklyn streets.”

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JAPAN

Continued from page 1

But most don’t know where Brooklyn is.”

Yasuta has been coming to design shows in New York for 10 years, and what struck him first about Brooklyn designers was their turning trash into treasure.

“I was so impressed by the use of sustainable materials,” said Yasuta. “At the time, no one was doing that.”

He likes the Brooklyn design scene so much that he brought 10 young Japanese designers along on his trip this year so they could see what Kings County creators are turning out. And work from Yasuta’s proteges is now being showcased at Bklyn Designs.

“We want to build a bridge between Dumbo and Japan,” Yasuta said.

Kiichiro Ogawa is one of the Japanese designers at the show. He likes to save stuff from ending up in a landfill.

He brought a chair constructed of salvaged plywood and discarded manga comic books, and some raincoats made from old umbrellas.

“It’s a waste of materials when these things get thrown away,” said Ogawa through a translator. “I want to use them.”

Bklyn Designs took place in five locations around Dumbo, including Saint Ann’s Warehouse, Brooklyn Roasting Company, and the Mark Jupiter Showroom. Sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, the 11th-annual design convention featured furniture, lighting, and home accessories made by 60 Brooklyn designers, in addition to the Japanese imports.

The Chamber’s president Carlo Scissura said the guest creative types demonstrate how long the reach of the borough’s creative community is.

“Our friends from Osaka have taken the idea of Brooklyn and integrated it into their own designs,” Scissura said. “It is a recognition that Brooklyn has become a global brand that has cachet people not only want to be associated with, but are inspired by.”

Yasuta is a huge fan of Brooklyn.

His favorite neighborhood right now is Bushwick, because so many young designers live there, but his affections for the borough aren’t limited.

“I love everywhere in Brooklyn,” he said.

Yasuta comes to New York once a year, and spends all his time on this side of the East River, he said, claiming he has not gone to Manhattan in a half dozen years.

“People here are very warm and friendly,” he said. “Not like Manhattan, where it’s cold.”



Your Mammogram Can Be A Lifesaver

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(718) 918-4716
- Lincoln Medical and Mental Health Center**
234 East 149th Street
Medical Pavilion
May 6, 13, 20 & 27 (Tuesdays)
4pm – 6:30pm
May 8, 15, 22 & 29 (Thursdays)
4pm – 6:30pm
- Women Health Clinic (1A2)**
May 3 & 17 (Saturdays)
8am – 2pm
(718) 579-5550
- North Central Bronx Hospital***
3424 Kossuth Avenue
Lobby
May 8, 15, 22 & 29 (Thursdays)
10am – 2pm
(718) 519-3086

- Segundo Ruiz Belvis Diagnostic & Treatment Center**
545 East 142nd Street
Breast Health information station
Lobby 1st floor
May 5 (Monday) – Kick Off
1:30pm – 5pm
(718) 579-4010
- Morrisania Diagnostic & Treatment Center**
Women’s Health Clinic – 3rd Floor
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May 5 – 30
9am – 4pm (Monday - Friday)
(718) 960-2701

Brooklyn

- East New York Diagnostic & Treatment Center**
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May 7, 14, 21 & 28 (Wednesdays)
May 9, 16, 23 & 30 (Fridays)
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(718) 240-0531
- Coney Island Hospital***
Main Building - First Floor Lobby
2601 Ocean Parkway
May 7 (Wednesday)
10am – 2pm
(718) 616-4432

- Kings County Hospital Center***
E Building – 6th Floor
451 Clarkson Avenue
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May 7, 14, 21 & 28 (Wednesdays)
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Manhattan

- Bellevue Hospital Center**
Atrium
462 First Avenue (27th Street)
May 15 (Thursday)
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(212) 562-4516
- Gouverneur Health**
227 Madison Street
May 1 – 31
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(212) 238-7897
- Harlem Hospital Center***
Mural Pavilion – Women’s Imaging, 2nd Floor
506 Lenox Avenue
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BP PARENT

Keep that Mace handy!

A few days ago, my daughter called from college and asked for my male perspective on the young men with which she goes to school. I was quite flattered she would turn to me, but found myself torn between painting a rosy picture of college boys and what kind, sensitive, and caring creatures they can be, or telling her the truth — that she should be cautious and wary, and keep a small bottle of Mace in her pocket whenever dudes are present.

This is not the caution of an overprotective father. I know dads like that, who swear they will chase away any suitor their daughter brings home and can barely stand to see their girls talking to a boy. That’s not my issue.

The incidence of sexual assault on college campuses is horrifying. A White House panel released its report last week estimating that one in five female students will be assaulted during their university career. Across the country, at large and small schools, prestigious and not, there are protests and lawsuits alleging colleges fail young women on their campuses by not protecting them, not responding to them, and not prosecuting attackers.

This epidemic is not about the high profile cases of college athletes who seem to escape punishment including Heisman Trophy winner Jameis Winston, accused of rape but unchanged after Florida State University and the Tallahassee police botched their investigations. These situations are terrible and wrong in every way.

What I’m talking about, though, is that guys on campuses, not just athletes, not just fraternity brothers, are routinely assaulting their classmates — most women know their attackers. Schools, and to be fair, parents as well, fail to hold young men accountable for their behavior, sweeping it under the rug with tired, phrases like, “misunderstanding” and “boys will be boys.”

The words we need to use are, “rape,” violence,” and “assault.”

What should I tell my daughter when she’s trying to understand the behavior of Joe Freshman down the hall or some guy she met in the library or at a party? Should I encourage her to join him for coffee?

Instead, I could take the alarmist tack and tell her never to drink (alcohol is often involved in college assaults), trust no one with a penis, don’t go to parties, never be alone with a man — anywhere. I might as well follow her around shouting “Danger! Danger! Danger!”

The Dad

By Scott Sager



but these messages subtly tell my girl that she is responsible if something bad happens to her. It’s just another way to blame the victim.

Parents, administrators, police, professors, we are all responsible for teaching our children right and wrong, that sexual violence is never okay, giving our daughters and sons clear moral compasses to guide them in college where they often have their first taste of adult freedoms and relationships.

In the end, I tell my daughter that college life is just like growing up in Brooklyn. There are all kinds of guys she’ll meet. Be aware of your surroundings, be prudent but enjoy, live fully, find good friends, go places.

But keep that can of Mace handy, just in case.

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